

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Science and Resources Portfolio  
2023 - 2024 Additional Estimates

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** Department of Industry, Science and Resources

**OUTCOME:** Program 1.2: Investing in science, technology and commercialisation

**TOPIC:** Quantum Computing

**REFERENCE:** Spoken Question (Hansard Page 127)

**QUESTION DATE:** 15 February 2024

**QUESTION No.:** AI-68

Senator BRAGG: Do you know how much funding has been allocated by the Commonwealth to quantum computing?

Ms Quinn: I don't have that off the top of my head.

Senator BRAGG: You can take it on notice if you want.

Ms Quinn: I know there are various grant programs and different types of support activity. I'm happy to take it on notice. There were some prior to the quantum strategy and during the quantum strategy. So I'm happy to take it on notice.

Senator BRAGG: Do you know whether there have been any closed invitation-only EOIs issued in relation to quantum computing?

Ms Quinn: We did undertake an EOI exploring the maturity of the market around quantum computing. That occurred last year.

Senator BRAGG: Was that a closed process or was it available to anyone?

Ms Quinn: We surveyed the market in terms of who we sought information from, and we went out to 21 domestic and international companies as part of that exploration process.

Senator BRAGG: How many?

Ms Quinn: Twenty-one.

Senator BRAGG: How many were foreign and how many were domestic?

Ms Quinn: I don't have that right here. I'm happy to take it on notice.

Senator BRAGG: Do you know what other governments have done in relation to these matters? Have they generally run open tenders?

Senator Ayres: Do you mean other governments around the world or state and territory governments?

Senator BRAGG: Other foreign governments.

Ms Quinn: I'm happy to take it on notice. I'm aware of some activity. Some have standing processes, and, for others, I'm not sure how we would know if they ran invite processes, given we're not a quantum computing company, but we might have some awareness of that through some of the contacts and discussions. We certainly have engaged internationally with others about what they're doing to develop the quantum space.

Senator BRAGG: Okay. I'm almost finished, Chair; I'm trying to be efficient. I don't want to verbal you here, Ms Quinn, but 21 companies were invited to engage in the closed or limited process, and you're going to take on notice how many were foreign and how many were domestic. Was PsiQuantum one of those?

Ms Quinn: I don't have the full list here with me, so I'm happy to take that on notice.

Senator BRAGG: Does anyone know? No-one else would know that?

Ms Wilson: We'll take it on notice. I haven't got the details in front of me for the 21 domestic and international, so we'll get the split for you.

Senator BRAGG: Okay. Was the Australian of the Year—I'm not sure it was this year, so it's

probably 'former' Australian of the Year—Professor Simmons, invited to apply?

Ms Quinn: I'm happy to take that on notice, given I haven't got the list. I don't want to mislead the Senate by ruling people in or out. But I'm happy to let you.

## **ANSWER**

1. Between 1 January 2002 and 1 March 2024, the Australian Government allocated at least \$170.91 million to quantum computing hardware and/or quantum computing software. In addition, a range of initiatives make funding available to the quantum industry alongside other sectors. For example, under the National Reconstruction Fund, \$1 billion is targeted towards enabling technologies such as quantum.
2. On 30 April 2024, the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments announced a joint investment of approx. A\$470 million each in PsiQuantum to build its world-first utility-scale fault tolerant quantum computer and establish its Asia-Pacific headquarters in Brisbane.
3. The department ran a EOI process in August 2023, inviting responses from 21 domestic and international quantum computing companies identified as having relevant capabilities. Details of which participants were approached are confidential.
4. The department does not have a list of the processes other governments have undertaken in relation to quantum computing capability.